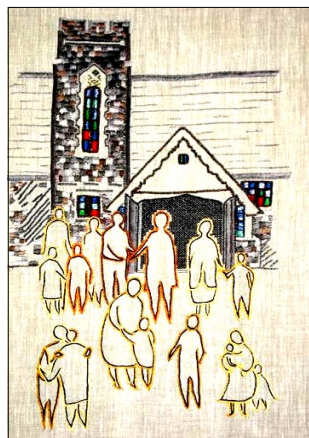


# 89th Annual Report: July 2017—June 2018

## Cashmere Presbyterian Church

To be presented at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 23rd September 2018



It's September, so time, once again, for the Annual Report for Cashmere Presbyterian Church. We are using a slightly different format this year, with this publication containing reports on our activities over the past year and looking forward to the coming year. Our Annual Accounts will be available via the website (<http://www.cashmerechurch.org.nz/news.html>) once they have been audited, with some hard copies available by request from the church office.

The Annual General Meeting of Cashmere Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018, following on from the morning tea after the Worship Service. This meeting is open to anyone, although voting rights are restricted to those who are formally listed as Members or Associate Members of the church.

If you would like to know more about any of our activities, or find out about our facilities, please contact the Church Office (ph. 332 7129, email [cashmere.church@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cashmere.church@xtra.co.nz))

### **From the Minister**

#### **Psalm 90: A puff of dust**

*Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.*

*From age to age, infinity to infinity*

*before mountains or stars -*

*you are God!*

*Ours lives are tiny, just a fraction of a second*

*in your vast time frame -*

*a breath, a puff of dust, here then gone.*

*Wake us every morning with your joy*

*Carry us through each day with your love.*

*Bless our hands so our work is good*

*Bless our lives so your glorious power shows in us.*



This month marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone for Cashmere Hills Presbyterian Church. Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!!

### **Worship**

Woven into our traditional pattern of worship have been a range of special services and themes, and visiting preachers:

- ◆ We experimented with a Pet Blessing service, decided it was a success, to be done again.
- ◆ Christmas was again a busy and thriving season at Cashmere. A special highlight was a children's choir, lead by David Troughton. The community carol service was a roaring success on a gorgeous evening in the garden at 1 Macmillan Avenue, with many thanks to Anne Shave for coordinating a brass band and singing group. A lively group had fun re-instating our tradition of singing carols at local Retirement Homes.
- ◆ Spiritual Director Barbara Sampson guided us through Lent, preaching and writing us a booklet for the weeks of Lent on spiritual disciplines.
- ◆ April saw a series on Peter and the book of Acts.
- ◆ June and July were spent in the books of 1 & 2 Samuel, exploring the lives and stories of Samuel and King David.
- ◆ I wish also to note the tender care that Anne Shave brings to leadership of the monthly Healing Service, which is deeply appreciated by all who attend and are prayed for.



*The Pet Blessing Service held in October 2017*

### **Children and youth ministry**

A major focus for 2018 was developing our programmes and outreach to children and young people. We have been blessed to have Paige Wilke working with us half time as Family Ministries Co-ordinator. Paige has brought a planned and thoughtful approach, fresh ideas and connections. She has completed a child safety policy. A major focus of Paige's work is outreach to the Cashmere Primary School, where her work leading weekly mentoring groups has been

warmly appreciated. She is organising a Spring Carnival on the Cashmere Green, a family-focused community event to be held on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October.

Youth ministry has been growing, with several events including a Summer beach swim, a social night at the Campbell's house (with spa!) in Lincoln, 10 pin bowling, and a movie afternoon.

Our annual seminar, held in September 2017, addressed the difficult and emotional topic of youth suicide, with two Youth Wellbeing seminars. 45 adults attended a session on the Friday night with excellent speakers working at the front line of suicide prevention. A similar number of teenagers came to an in-depth programme on the Sunday afternoon aimed to build resilience and give skills for supporting their friends through dark times. Many thanks to Paul Humphreys for his leadership of this project, and Ruth Troughton.



*Socialising in the Campbell's spa pool—October 2017*

Our pre-school Music Group has had a strong year, with plenty of visitors and a solid core of families. Many thanks to Rosemary, Ella, Jill, Joyce, Helen and all those who help out.

### Writing

I have continued to develop my worship resource website: [www.conversations.net.nz](http://www.conversations.net.nz), and printed a collection of all 150 Psalms adapted for children. Called 'Let's Say A Psalm' this is available for \$10 from the church office.

I have also presented workshops on 'creativity in worship' (to the Alpine Presbytery gathering) and 'using Psalms in worship' (to the Canterbury Lay Preachers Association)

### Thank you!

It is always dangerous to start thanking people, when everyone is so deserving of appreciation. However I must mention by name:

Parish Clerks Bruce Leadbetter and Anne Shave have done a sterling job for 2 years, and are now stepping down. They have been a marvellous team, going 'above and beyond' the call of duty and showing strong leadership. Our congratulations go to Anne for completing her PhD!

Nothing like someone being away to reinforce how much you value them! Our fabulous Parish Administrator, Gail Weaver, sadly lost her mother this year, and took extended leave to spend time in the UK. Thanks especially to Cecile Pierce for 'holding the fort'.

A personal word of thanks to Janet Aldridge for providing a beautiful home for my family for these past couple of years.

*Silvia Purdie*

### **Parish Clerks' Report—August 2018**

A survey conducted in an Episcopalian church in California in 2012 identified five reasons that people gave for coming to, or coming back to, church. People said that they wanted help to find their way on their own spiritual journey; help to give their children a faith foundation to guide their lives; help to pray, worship and serve others; help to be in community and to be welcomed as they are; and support, companionship and care at times of need. If the same survey were to be conducted at Cashmere Presbyterian Church, do you think the results would be similar? Do you agree that these are important priorities?

Our church's website lists five aims of our parish (*right*).

To some extent, our parish council is structured in a way that reflects these priorities. The convenors of committees, who are on parish council, represent a much larger group of parish members who work very hard behind the scenes towards achieving these goals.

AIM I: To engage in dynamic Christian worship.
AIM II: To provide effective teaching based on the Bible, using theology relevant to our times.
AIM III: To be a caring, welcoming, inclusive and supportive church family.
AIM IV: To share the love of God in practical action, outreach, and Christian leadership in the community.
AIM V: To have effective parish governing and administrative structures and use of resources.

Our minister, Silvia Purdie, has special responsibility for addressing the first two aims, with the support of a team. Silvia's thoughtful and thought-provoking sermons are key in addressing the second aim, in particular. On

Sundays Silvia is supported in leading worship by our organists, Tim Emerson, David Troughton and Leith McMurray, and other musicians, readers and pray-ers. Our children's ministry team, including Paige Wilke, Rosemary Troughton, Joyce Lockhart, Helen Leadbetter and supportive parents and grandparents, offer an engaging programme to the children. We thank Silvia for her planning and leadership of our Sunday services, Rosemary for her oversight of the Family Ministries' team, Paige for the varied ways in which she has worked with children and youth during this year, and every person who contributes to our Sunday services and supports the associated children's programme.

Other parishioners are often called in to assist at special services, acting, reading, or leading other aspects of worship. To mark ANZAC Day, for example, Robert Aitken organized and led a very memorable service, with the support of others. Our services are enriched by so many individuals' willingness to be involved. Parishioners who help us to feel welcome greet us at the door and at morning tea. We are encouraged to raise our hearts to God in praise when beautiful flowers arranged by Tric Nelson, Helen Leadbetter, or Barbara White are before us. We worship in a beautiful church and we are grateful to those who maintain and clean it. We express our special appreciation for the work of Beverley Berry, who has now retired after many years of service as our cleaner.

In thinking about the first two aims of our parish, it is important to remember that Christian education does not only happen on Sundays. We acknowledge the important ministry of Forum, which meets on Wednesdays. This group provides an opportunity for parishioners to discuss theological questions arising out of the Sunday services. As clerks, we would like to recognise Alan Simson's able leadership of Forum over many years, and to thank him for it. At Alan's request, this year the group has moved to a shared leadership model. Over the past year theological questions have also been explored at three open elders' meetings which were well attended. There is still plenty of room for our parish to explore other ways to help adults who are interested in further theological extension.

Our parish's third aim is to be a caring, welcoming, inclusive and supportive church family. Working towards this goal is the shared privilege of everyone who belongs to the church. Elisabeth Cooch leads a large team of caring and enthusiastic pastoral visitors. We are indebted to Elisabeth for her commitment as convenor of the Pastoral Committee. Cecile Pierce, as convenor of the Fellowship & Hospitality Committee has continued her sterling work in organising social events which have helped to build community as well as being very important fundraising efforts for the parish. This year, under Cecile's leadership, 'Cookie Girls' have served the community by selling tempting delicacies after church on

a regular basis. Others have also sought to offer hospitality to groups within the parish, both formally and informally. Over the past year Bruce Leadbetter has taken the initiative in organising some events for men, which have been very successful. Andrea and Warren Campbell, Silvia and Chris Purdie, and Tric and Peter Nelson have offered warm hospitality to youth on several occasions. We would particularly like to acknowledge Joan Lawson's leadership and many years of service behind the scenes in catering and 'kitchen affairs.' Joan has had a wonderful group of workers to call on and work with, but as she steps down from her pivotal role we want to thank her for the many hours she has given to the church in this capacity. In terms of meeting our parish's third goal, every social event, phone call, visit, meal delivered, cup of tea poured, card sent, handshake or word of welcome matters. Thank you to you all.

As we reflect on our life together as a church family, we think of those who have died during the past year. We record with thanks the lives of Esme June Bennett, Carol Hart, Adrienne Webb, Joyce Lillias Simpson, Thelma France, Dick France, Kenneth Forne, Jock McPhail, Dot McDonald, Jean Simson, Gladys Dearness, Jim Berry, and Brian Lawson. We wish to extend our sympathies to all the family members of these special people. We also acknowledge that a number of members of our church community have lost other family members and close friends this year. Although we may not know all of these people by name, we extend our sympathy to you also.

During the year, through Baptism we have welcomed into the family of Christ Eleanor Morrison, Saskia Roberts, Edward Moir, Madeleine Moir, Everley Armstrong and Maisie Bustin. It is always a joy to welcome young children into the church.

The fourth aim of our church is to share the love of God in practical action, outreach, and Christian leadership in the community. David Troughton and Colin Reid have been very active as members of the Church and Society Committee, as can be seen in David's report. They have put many hours into community projects such as CREST, the annual Cashmere Conference, and a special event for health professionals. We acknowledge the work of this committee with gratitude. Practical action has also been very much in evidence at the six-weekly foot clinic, run by Judith Waters and a very enthusiastic team, and the weekly Pre-School Music programme for pre-schoolers, led by Silvia Purdie, organized by Rosemary Troughton, and supported by a group of very committed volunteers. Although it is not possible to name all the volunteers and team members who support these programmes, we hope that you know that what you do is really appreciated. Thank you. Community outreach has also been an important part of Paige Wilke's role. She has worked at Cashmere Primary School for several hours a week, and her presence there has been valued by the staff and students. Paige has worked with others in planning a

community Spring Carnival which, at the time of writing, is still coming up. The Plantarama, which is an important fund-raising activity, spearheaded by Cecile Pierce and Tric Nelson, also provides an opportunity for Cashmere residents to meet parishioners and to see our buildings. Our buildings are used by a number of community groups, including Aspiehelp, the Parents' Centre, Quilts and Bits, and others. We also provide an office for the Alpine Presbytery. We are glad that our site is being used in these ways, and we hope that more groups might also choose to establish a base at 2 Macmillan Avenue. Beyond our immediate community, our parish supports the work of the Christchurch City Mission food bank. Thank you to the team of faithful volunteers who deliver the donations that are placed in the shopping trolley in church each week. During our family service each month a special collection is taken for the sponsorship of a child through World Vision. We thank Judith Harrington for her oversight of this important part of our church's work over many years, and we also thank Millie and Warren Campbell for their work in this role this year.

Finally, our church aims to have effective parish governing and administrative structures and use of resources. As our Presbytery representative, Elizabeth Taggart has ensured we are well-informed about, and connected to, what is happening in the wider church. Warren Campbell has been a one-man Property

committee for much of this year, a role he has shouldered with equanimity. Warren has facilitated some really enjoyable working bees. The work of the Finance Committee happens in the background, but in many ways underpins what it is possible for Cashmere Presbyterian Church to do. Peter Nelson's business acumen and strong leadership of a very capable team has ensured effective stewardship of the church's finances and resources in the face of significant challenges. We thank him and the whole team for their efforts and their time. We are grateful to our treasurer, Meredith Smith, and to Ella Gao for their work in managing the church's finances, alongside our parish administrator, Gail Weaver. And we are, of course, very grateful to all those who give generously to the work of the parish on a regular basis and to those who have supported other special appeals. Thank you.

The parish council plays an important role in ensuring that the five aims of the church are remembered and worked towards on an ongoing basis. But as this report suggests, every member of the church plays an essential part in doing this. As we step down as parish clerks we would like to thank you all for contributing in such a wide variety of ways to our church family.

*Bruce Leadbetter and Anne Shave  
Joint Parish Clerks*

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## ***Church and Society Committee***

The Crusaders have earned a great reputation for the quality of their performances on the turf. Equally, they are respected for the culture of care and respect for each other, of commitment to team-work, and nurturing their families and each other. A similar reputation is growing for the All Blacks. Wayne Smith worshipped at St Giles Presbyterian Church when he was in Christchurch, and said he found inspiration and encouragement there. Ian Foster's father Jack, a Presbyterian minister, died in August. Their social awareness undoubtedly has contributed to the way they have lived and coached.

At General Assembly this year, G18, we will hear what has happened to the proposal presented on our initiative to G16, and adopted, that our National Church should have a network studying in depth contemporary issues.

That was what Jesus said, "Be salt. Be a light in your community." So that is what our church is living out in our community. We form a community Hub.

One way is that we provide buildings and facilities for a variety of self-sufficient activities in a spirit of warm Christian hospitality. The Garden Club, school events, Aspie Help, The Alpine Presbytery are examples.

Another way is that we are the providers of the services to the community, such as Pre-School Music, or Foot Clinic, or worship services where we are put in touch with the Living God. Through worship we make a distinctive contribution to the community, for we correct where we are going off-track, and learn how to feel the nudges of God and experience the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

Yet again, there are other areas where we can only make a contribution by collaborating with other community groups, forming a network such as CREST, for instance. We also have formed public squares for several years, which bring the community and civic groups together with the church to reflect on contemporary issues.

***Caring for Creation.*** We keep reminding ourselves of this responsibility in our worship, especially through Harvest Thanksgiving, and Spring Flower services. Our upcoming Conference is entitled 'Rich Living,' and we will be exploring sustainable living. This year, for this, we have been collaborating with A Rocha (an international Christian conservation group) and ecologically concerned groups at South West Baptist and Grace Vineyard Churches, and the Summit road Society.

***Healing Ministry.*** Dr Anne Shave, in partnership with our minister, has continued to lead the monthly Healing Services very sensitively.

Last year we held very fruitful on youth suicide in a conference on the theme of Youth Well-being and Suicide Prevention. This made connection with a significant group of youth, and also the parents who are anxious about these significant concerns.

A special innovation this year was a service and meal where we considered caring for our personal spiritual well-being with doctors. This was in response to the modification of the Doctors' Oath which had been adopted by the World Medical Association in response to recommendation of the NZ Medical Association: 'I will attend to my own health, well-being, and abilities in order to provide care of the highest standard.' Our minister and Dr Ruth Spearing led the service; doctors contributed musically, and to the topics, 'My Mind as my Friend', (Dr Graham MacDonald) and 'Sustaining a Culture of Compassion-through prayer', (Mr Les Snape on Vellore Christian Medical College). The Senior Hospital Chaplain, Rev Sandra Wright-Taylor surveyed ways in which we can nourish our spiritual life.

We continue our support of *Christian World Service appeals, Whareora House, World Vision.*

*Cashmere Residents Emergency Support Team* is an independent network which was formed on the initiative of our church, and it still has a simple objective. It is to provide a safe place on the hill in the event of a crisis by opening our church centre. We did open when there was a serious fire on the hills earlier this year. The current major challenge is to provide electricity and water when there are serious events. We now have a water tank, and are about to provide a connection for a generator. Cashmere Primary School and Rotary and Civil Defence advisors have worked together with us very amicably. Unfortunately this has not been the case with Cashmere Residents' Association, but we hope that in due course this collaboration may be restored. Our current Chair is Alison Murphy, representing Rotary, and the secretary is Colin Reid of our church.

*Inter-faith Issues* used to arise only when missionaries went overseas and interacted within multi-faith societies. Nowadays these faiths have come to our shores, and we all rub shoulders. Religion has never been more important internationally than it is now. Some religions believe in God or gods, others do not. Atheists have religious faith constructions that they live by. In New Zealand, secular has been promoted in such a way that it is equivalent to atheist, to living Godlessly. Children in New Zealand are abysmally ignorant of the role of religion, and are struggling to find a basis for meaningfulness. There is a commonly-held and ill-considered plausibility factor around that the religions are all equivalent, and it does not matter which one we follow – even though clearly there are significant differences, differences which are well worth discussing. Then we can make informed choices, and also realise what a radically liberating faith we hold to as Christians. Yet we can relate and encourage each other in our quests, and create conversations rather than confrontations. This year the Sikh community opened a new Gurudwara in Christchurch, and the convenor had the privilege being invited to attend-possibly the only Kiwi from a European ethnic background who attended. Since then he has continued to relate with members of that community, and also with members of other religious communities. This is an area we should be exploring further.

As for becoming a *Marriage Centre*, we have seen some increasing involvement with couples who were married in our church, and their children; however this could be developed more.

Development as a *Spiritual Centre* has fluctuated, although some contemplative events have been held during this past twelve months.

*Cashmere Connection* has a significant potential in reaching out into the community.

We need to develop our team. Much of the consultation this year has been Management By Walking About!

*W. David Troughton, Convenor*

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## **Fellowship & Hospitality Committee**

This has been a 'different' kind of year for the Fellowship & Hospitality volunteers who have offered their time and energy to provide a variety of activities for an ever changing congregation. While a large proportion of our Church community is becoming older, it is so pleasing to see an emerging growth of families filling the spaces and that means that we must find new ways to come together socially, catering for different generations.

Catering for various occasions over the past 12 months has been a focus for Fellowship & Hospitality team activities, and has included: serving refreshments for the Family Ministry with Robyn Humphries; the Youth Wellbeing Seminar; Cashmere Primary School Music festival; the annual Christmas Lunch & BBQ; Morning tea to recognise our long standing cleaner Beverley Berry's retirement; Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ; and a Pot Luck Parish lunch. It has been a pleasure to have the willing assistance of several lovely ladies, always happy to work in the kitchen.

But that is not all. It is timely to recognise the wonderful commitment of Joan Lawson, who for many years has

kept up the supplies and rosters for our weekly after Sunday Service morning teas, and done the most amazing job providing a team to serve refreshments for the many Funerals that are held at Cashmere. A huge THANK YOU Joan.

Annette McAdam has offered to take over this task and has, of course, been willingly accepted, and we offer her our full support over the coming year(s).

Other people have also added their organisational flair to the mix, and I'd like to thank Helen Leadbetter for arranging the popular morning and afternoon teas held on several occasions this past year, at local Cafes. The attendance has been amazing especially when perhaps 10 people are expected and more than 20 turn up. These are very important socially interacting 'get-togethers' with not only our women but the menfolk too meeting informally.

A new Fund-raiser has appeared, and been held monthly since the beginning of the year. The Cookie Girls have provided a range of small packages of home baking with



items targeted mainly for those living alone. This has been well supported by our members and to date has raised around \$1,400. While only a 'drop in the bucket' for the Church coffers, it has been fun to do and the proceeds appreciated.

Tric Nelson introduced the idea of a Plantarama—a Fair for plants, pots and all things gardening—and this very successful event was held in November 2017. It proved to be a great community outreach project with many people eager to lend a hand, more easily managed than our usual Fair and a good fundraiser. There is another Plantarama being



Plantarama 2017

planned for October this year, and we look forward to lots of congregational support on this occasion as well.

Thank you to everyone who has offered to assist with so many tasks over the past year. We welcome your own particular expertise in many areas and are pleased to welcome

newcomers to our team of helpers. The weekly Bulletin is an excellent way to advertise an event so if you see something that appeals, just let us know if you would like to be involved.

We all know that 'Many hands lighten the load'. Thank you again.

*Cecile Pierce, Convenor*

## Family Ministries Team

**Pre-School Music Programme:** There are currently over 40 mothers, grandmothers and carers on our roll, and fifty children. Fortunately they do not all come each week, but we do have a core of committed families who come regularly. After the age of 3, children are eligible for kindergarten, so the majority of the children are toddlers, with a few 3 & 4 year-olds.

We are realising that we may need to set up a waiting list but, with the narrow window of opportunity for contact, we have been unwilling at this point to discourage any who come.



Wheels day at pre-school music

Silvia is very popular with the children, and is in her element leading the programme. Ella Gao and Jill McAra work in the kitchen, while Helen Leadbetter, Joyce Lockhart and Rosemary Troughton support Silvia, and make contact with the mothers and children. Lynda Skinner, who lives locally and has led a music group previously, often comes to help. Elisabeth Cooch and Margaret Ford, before their long trips away overseas, have also been a valued member of the team.

We ask for a contribution of \$2 per child, and fruit—a number of parents give more and others contribute with food and help with the clean-up. Members of our team provide morning tea. The children are very comfortable in our setting as they return cushions to different areas of the property! We continue to pray for connection with the Sunday morning programme.

**Sunday Programme:** With a settled programme and time table, there is good progress as we develop our ministry for children and families. We are using the Jesus Storybook Bible programme, a wonderful resource, providing excellent material which is easily adaptable to all ages.

Our timetable aims to give our children the experience of worshipping together as the family of God and to have enough time for music, inter-personal connection, as well

as spiritual development. We appreciate Silvia's flexibility with the order of service to allow this to happen.

After the children leave the service there is a time of shared activity led by Paige before they separate. Paige and Helen Leadbetter work with the older children, Joyce Lockhart and Rosemary Troughton with the pre-schoolers in the Family Room. We are very encouraged by the strong support of our families for the programme, and for the connections being built. Thank you Laikei (Officer), Janice (Lee), Angela (Roberts), Owen and Penny (Foster), and Liz (Davidson). There is great potential to plan an additional class.

We are so grateful for God's guidance and provision throughout this year, and for the blessing of working with such enthusiastic and committed team.

We pray for wisdom and guidance as we face the challenge of providing an age-appropriate programme for all our children and young people.

*Rosemary Troughton, Convenor*

## Youth & Family Ministry

In February this year Paige Wilke joined us in the Youth & Family Ministry role, and has worked with a team to set in place activities for younger people.

**Kowhai Kids:** For all children at the Sunday services. We are now in a routine with our Sunday morning programme. We have purchased and are using the curriculum based around the Jesus Storybook Bible—a copy of this Bible is given to each child that is baptised at Cashmere, so we thought it was a good way to go to carry on the learning at home and increase familiarity with the stories in it.

A typical Sunday follows a similar pattern:

- \* We learn a song together
- \* A game
- \* The video from the curriculum telling our story for the morning

- \* We then split up the age groups—preschoolers use the family room at the front of the church, and the school aged children stay in the Kowhai Lounge.
- \* Each week the children get a new memory verse to learn which is laminated and goes onto a keyring. If they can remember the verse off by heart then they get a prize.
- \* We then have a craft or activity themed to the story

**Hilltop Youth:** For young people from school years 6-10. Once a month we run a social event that is opened up to the community and school, alternating between an

offsite activity such as bowling, ice skating etc and an onsite activity at the church. The dates for these coincide with the Family Services to make it easy to remember when they are on.

**Mentoring Programmes:** Working at Cashmere Primary School with all ages. Some children are in groups and some are individual sessions. All sessions are working towards high self-esteem levels and creating and maintaining better friendships with each other. Every week I have 11 twenty minutes sessions—6 with small groups of three kids, and 5 individual sessions.

*Paige Wilke*

## **Finance Convener Report**

We have faced another tough year financially for our church. Meredith will present the financials in more detail, but we have reported a loss of \$30,681 for the year ending June 2018. This follows a loss of \$7,458 last financial year, and a budgeted deficit for 2019.

The deficit for 2018 is driven a couple of factors: property expenses are \$12,000 more than 2017 due to a \$5,000 increase in insurance, and a \$7,000 expense incurred for upgrading the fire sealing under the church to receive our building warrant of fitness for insurance purposes.

Your finance committee has worked on looking at all areas to identify where we can reduce expenses and save on our costs during the year but, as with the two major costs discussed, it is hard to foresee some areas.

Our income for the year is reduced based on the 2017 financial year (\$158,000 vs \$176,000); offerings have remained stable as have our return on investments and income from rent although this is down slightly (\$2,329)

due to the vacancy of the West Room—with the Presbytery moving upstairs this was vacant for a few months but has now been tenanted by the Parents Centre. There is a \$4,000 reduction in income from weddings over the past year. A couple of areas to note in the accounts are that there is a \$7,000 reduction in Thanksgiving Sunday income, you may remember in 2017 there was an appeal for funds to repay the loan.

General donations were also down from \$15,000 in 2017 to \$6,000 this year.

Our investments have decreased from \$338,000 to \$325,000 due to having to move funds to our working account to cover the additional costs of repairs and insurance.

Looking forward to the new financial year, we will invest some money in marketing our facilities to generate rental income and, through our capable Office Administrator, focus on increasing the number of weddings.

I would like to thank our Finance Committee for their hard work over the past year and in particular Meredith for all the efforts with Xero our new accounting system. I would also like to make special note of the work that Jay has put in in negotiating and looking at our options for insurance, his expertise and ability in this complex area has been invaluable. Thanks to Tony Walters who came into finance during the year taking on the Giving Secretary role and also to Ella Gao who each week imputes data into our accounting system.

As we move forward we must seriously look at what the future holds for Cashmere Presbyterian. It is difficult to see us recovering from deficits in the foreseeable future unless we can increase our sources of income it is therefore essential to consider what options may be open to us in how we can reduce our cost base, and this is something that we will do over the course of the next year.

*Peter Nelson, Finance Convener*

## **Forum**

For twenty years Forum has continued to meet on Wednesday mornings. The fact that it has continued for this length of time is very much due to Alan Simson's commitment and hard work. The new format of shared leadership has worked well. With the opportunity for different members to lead the discussion each week, we benefit from a variety of approaches and fresh perspectives. It is a blessing to all who come.

The sermon from the previous week, along with the Bible readings, form the basis for our study and reflection. There is great richness in sharing our personal perspectives and life experiences. Our discussions are wide-ranging and lively, and are always encouraging and stimulating.

Alan Simson takes responsibility for a leadership roster, and Silvia attends when she is able. We meet in the Kowhai Lounge on Wednesdays at 10.00am and would be delighted to welcome anyone interested in joining an adult study group.

## Cashmere Foot Clinic

Every 6 weeks the hall is filled with friendly chatter as the supporters of Foot Clinic gather to have their nails trimmed after a foot bath followed by a foot massage.

In October 2017 we celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of when Joy Coster initiated the formation of our group. Thirty-five past and present volunteers participated in “high tea” with speeches and a special celebration cake. A very enjoyable afternoon.

A large number who attend, and our volunteers, are not associated with our church and so provide an ecumenical service to the community, and come from a wide area of the city.

Our volunteers are marvellous, welcoming clients with a hot drink and baking, cleaning the foot baths and keeping everything running smoothly as well as trimming nails. New members are always welcome—please ring Judith if you are interested in joining our team. Numbers of clients are restricted by the number of volunteers.

Thank you to all members of the Foot Clinic team for your enthusiasm and willingness to give of your time and talents to enable our clientele to enjoy a little pampering when they come to have their nails trimmed.

**Judith Waters, Convenor**



*Top left: Joy Coster, founder of the Foot Clinic, cutting the anniversary cake (top right) made by Kirstie McAdam; attendees at the afternoon tea.*

## Aspiehelp/The Aspire Trust

Aspiehelp/The Aspire Trust (Inc) is coming to the end of its 8<sup>th</sup> year of service. We are very comfortable in our rooms upstairs in Church House, which serve our needs much better than the croft!

We have been fortunate this year in that we have been better supported than usual, financially, and have been able to keep up fairly well with our rent payments! (We are currently waiting on the outcome of another application).

So far, we have seen 32 new clients and some “old” ones as well. Most pay moderate fees to us, but we also do see people gratis, some on behalf of this church as we believe that anyone who comes here for help should receive it, Aspie or not.

The majority of clients find our services very reassuring and encouraging. We see all ages, adolescents still at school, right through to retirement age and beyond.

We have an excellent specialist library which anyone can borrow from, on payment of a membership fee of \$20. We also leave copies of our monthly newsletter in the foyer for people to take home, an enquiries are always welcome.

In April, Julie McGeorge and Leith McMurray made a trip to Motueka to make our first public presentation (trial run). It was very well received and was very helpful for us in fine-tuning our “public face”.

Leith received a Civic Award in December of last year in recognition of our service. We are also involved in the wider Disability world in NZ, trying to obtain better funding and understanding of the needs of every kind of disability. Roughly 1 in 5 of New Zealanders has some kind of disability, by the way! (Autism and Asperger’s is called an “invisible” disability).

In November, we are running a two-day “Aspie Roundup”, a celebration of the “Ausomeness of Autism/Asperger’s” (sic), with very interesting presentations to enjoy. Details on [www.theaspieroundup.co.nz](http://www.theaspieroundup.co.nz). This will take place at the Cashmere Presbyterian Centre. All welcome on receipt of the fee, which includes catering!

*The Aspire Trust, Inc is an independent registered Charitable Trust.*

### **Who’s who for the 2017-2018 year**

**Minister:** Rev Silvia Purdie BA, BTheol; **Parish Clerks:** Anne Shave & Bruce Leadbetter;

**Treasurer:** Meredith Smith; **Office Administrator:** Gail Weaver

**Parish Council:** Elisabeth Cooch (Pastoral), Cecile Pierce (Fellowship & Hospitality), Rosemary Troughton (Family Ministries), David Troughton (Church & Society), Warren Campbell (Property), Peter Nelson (Finance), Colin Reid (Congregational Representative), Elizabeth Taggart (Presbytery Elder)